

August 19, 2016

## ***Tourism Spending Continues to Increase***

Tourism spending in Stanly County generated an estimated economic impact of \$76.2 million in 2015, according to statistics released this week by the NC Dept. of Commerce. The report includes direct visitor spending estimates for all 100 North Carolina counties, as well as estimates for travel and tourism related employment and tax revenues.

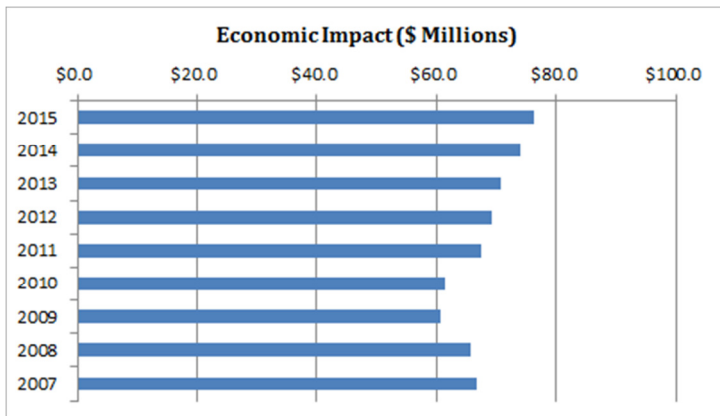
The \$76.2 million economic impact represented a three (3) percent increase over the prior year. The 3 percent increase also matched the statewide average.

Stanly County ranked 49th in travel and tourism impact among North Carolina's 100 counties. The report suggests travel and tourism generated \$10.26 million in payroll for Stanly County in 2015.

Further, approximately 490 jobs were directly or indirectly attributable to travel and tourism spending. Direct and indirect employment increased by 3.2% from the prior year as a result of the \$1 million increase in payroll expenditures.

According to the report, local sales and occupancy tax revenue receipts from travel and tourism activity amounted to \$2.26 million in 2014.

Below please find a chart illustrating the economic impact of travel and tourism in Stanly County over the past nine (9) years:



## ***County Receives SHIIP Award***

The Stanly County Senior Services department was recently recognized with an award at the NC Dept. of Insurance, Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) conference in Greensboro.

Stanly County Senior Services received the 2015 Central, NC County of the Year award for its efforts to provide free, objective information and counseling about Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other health insurance related products to seniors age 65 and older.

A total of 300 seniors were assisted by the County's SHIIP Case Coordinator and numerous citizen volunteers between January 1 and December 31, 2015. As a result, the clients saved \$199,806. The majority of the savings is attributed to clients switching Part D plans and moving to alternative Medicare supplement plans.

The success of the County's program appears to be generating additional interest among seniors. Based on the number of consultation visits with clients through July 2016, the County's SHIIP team is on track to see more clients than calendar year 2015.

## ***Upcoming Meetings & Events***

Stanly COG Meeting	Tuesday, August 30 6:30 PM Lutheran Church – Richfield
Labor Day Holiday	Monday, September 5 County Offices Closed
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 6 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room